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ber, sulphur room, and bath tubs, to be ready for use about November 10. Several steamers trading with this port, the steamer *Coptic* being among the number, have had plague develop after being away several weeks from any infected port. The infection on one occasion at least was traced to rats, resident in the steamer, receiving their infection from cargo. In this case the dead rats, almost mummified, were found in the quarters of the European crew, where the first case developed in the person of a white officer. In view of this, it has seemed a good precaution to disinfect from time to time the holds of steamers that lie at docks in United States ports. Over 150 rats were found in the steamer *Nippon Maru* after being treated under my supervision October 27, 1900.

While the facilities for the disinfection of baggage have been inadequate for the large amount to be treated, it is hoped the barge and added improvement at the Pacific Mail station will meet the requirements. The work, however, is so divided, the number of steamers leaving is so large, and the cargoes need so much supervision that it seemed that assistance was immediately necessary and that the Bureau should know the condition at once.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CUBA.

Reports from Cienfuegos, Casilda, and Santa Cruz del Sur.

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *December 3, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended December 1, 1900, 17 deaths have occurred in this city from the following: Tetanus infantile, 1; tuberculosis, 4; empyema, 1; bronchitis capillary, 1; aortic insufficiency, 2; malarial fever, 3; pneumonia broncho, 1; heart disease, 2; enteritis, 1; angina pectoris, 1.

Four of these deaths occurred in the civil hospital. Death rate 22.16. Health of port good; weather continues excellent.

Fourteen vessels entered this port and 14 vessels were issued bills of health. Twelve alien steerage passengers arrived from Spain on steamship *Berenguer el Grande* November 27; were inspected and allowed to land. Two hundred and twenty-nine members of crew inspected and 171 passengers. Twenty-one health certificates issued.

Twenty pieces of baggage, arriving on Menendez steamer from Batabano and destined for Santiago, were labeled "to be disinfected." Seventy-four pieces of baggage inspected and passed. Fourteen pieces of baggage disinfected.

Casilda.—Dr. Alejandro Cantero reports 2 deaths in the city of Trinidad during the week; no contagious diseases reported.

Santa Cruz del Sur.—Dr. Juan R. Xiques reports no deaths during the week; no contagious diseases; health of port good. Inspected 9 vessels.

Respectfully,

F. E. TROTTER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.